

BUDGET/FACILITIES SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES

Monday, August 27, 2007

Oliver Administration Building

Present

Subcommittee: William O'Dell, Paul Brulé, David Dugan, William Estrella (6:28)

School Committee, Administration and Staff: John Saviano, Edward Mara, Melinda Thies, Jane Correia, Pauline Silva, Tracey McGee, Michael Carbone, Cynthia Sadler and Frank Fales

Other: A Parent

Bill O'Dell called the meeting to order at 6:12 PM, once a quorum was reached.

Public Comment: None at this time. (Parent comment later in meeting.)

Approval of Minutes

Paul Brule motioned to approve the minutes to the July 23, 2007

meeting; David Dugan seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Warrant Review

No concerns.

Reynolds Garden Project

Tracey McGee, Principal of Reynolds, informed the Committee that Reynolds received a \$2500 RICAPE grant, one of the first seven recipients in the State, to build a garden at the school; the premise of Patrick Kennedy is for every school to have a garden by 2010. The goal of this children's garden initiative is to bring the community and the school together and to get kids back in touch with the earth; every school must pay it forward. The grant was matched by the parents' group. Tracey has formed a board that is collaborating with Blithewold, Bristol Parks and Recreation, Staton's Landscaping, Frerichs Farm and Brook Miriam, a landscape architect; she is pleasantly surprised at how many people are willing to devote their time and equipment to the project. The Board has developed a plan that includes:

 a staged platform in the back of the building for an outdoor classroom and performances

 on the south side of the property, replace the pavement with a raised bed with a trellis for vegetables to emulate the way the Native Americans did it, with a spiral brick walkway within; move the dumpster to school property on the other side of High Street

 in front of the building to the left, an "art" garden, planted

with annuals in the form of the color wheel

 in front of the building to the right, a “musical” garden, planted to attract birds and butterflies

 the children will write the letters requesting donations of plants and supplies

Plans should be completed in October; a press release will be done before each meeting; the goal is to have the first shovel in the ground by November, all plantings in by mid-March and a sustainable garden by the end of the school year. It is thought that high school students needing to do community service could help maintain the garden. In the event that the Reynolds building is closed in the future, Tracey felt the obligation to pay it forward could be made to the new location.

Bill O’Dell said the Phase II Facilities Task Force needs to have the proposed design.

Tracey McGee left the meeting at 6:40 PM.

Middle School Chorus Update

Mike Carbone, Cindy Sadler and Frank Fales explained the mechanics of the middle school schedule, which is designed to give students exposure to as many different subject areas as possible. The current sixth grade students were polled last year for interest in chorus—there were 24. If another staff person were hired to provide more chorus classes, there would still be only two classes because of the number of students involved. An after school chorus program is not feasible because these students typically play sports as well. The

guidance counselors contacted the families interested in chorus to offer a team change.

The Budget/Facilities Subcommittee took no action from a budget standpoint based on the fact that no additional recommendation came from the Principal of Kickemuit Middle School or those in charge of scheduling.

Frank Fales, Cindy Sadler and Michael Carbone left the meeting at 7:00 PM.

Transportation

New Legislation Impacts – no additional discussion needed.

Enforcement of Walking Distances

Jane Correia reported we received many phone calls; the greatest impact of enforcing the policy as written has been at Rockwell. Bill Estrella said we started warning people in January. Ed Mara had received a call from a member of the Bristol Town Council about the lack of sidewalks on Bay View Avenue—upon checking, there are sidewalks except at the top of the street. In areas like Touissett, extra stops have been put in because there are no sidewalks.

Another issue is bussing to daycare; we have put a great deal of effort into accommodating people; most communities do not bus to

daycare providers. We provide before and after school day care at all our elementary schools.

A parent addressed the Committee about the canceling of bussing for her son, who has an IEP. She did not learn of this until 5:30 PM the day before school starts, no one bothered to notify parents that bus stops were being discontinued; her entire neighborhood is in an uproar; there are stops all around her house. Bill Estrella suggested the parent discuss her specific case privately with the Superintendent and asked administration to find a clearer way to delineate the walk zone. He apologized for parents' frustration.

The parent left the meeting at 7:20 PM.

FY 2007 Budget

Jane Correia reported an end balance of \$35,940.48.

MOTION: Bill Estrella motioned to forward the 2007 Budget balance of \$35,940.48 to Capital Projects. Paul Brule seconded. The motion passed by a vote of 4 to 0.

Jane also reported that her debt service accounting shows RIHEBC still owes us \$38,738.28.

Audit: Jane was expecting the audit to begin this week; it will begin next Tuesday instead.

Capital Projects Review

Jane Correia said \$183,648 was received from the Byfield fund which is more than was expected.

FY 2008 Budget

Pauline Silva explained the new 33 digit accounting system that we are piloting for the State; we now record expenditures down to the building and subject level. Her office made the decision to track extra curricular activities by sport. With such detail, trends are becoming evident. A presentation on the new accounting system analysis will be made at the October workshop. Our district receives \$5,561 for training; districts whose accounting systems cannot accommodate the new numbers will receive grants to purchase new systems.

FY 2009 Budget

The projected rate of 14.8% for employer contribution to the retirement system means an increase of \$420,000 for the District. Jane speculates a switch to 401Ks is inevitable.

Colt Andrews Project – Funding Review

Jane Correia reviewed the attached Outline of Loan Transaction; this

language was drafted by Sandy Mack after a meeting with John Day and Jane. Sandy represents the Town of Bristol in this matter; Andrew Henneous will be consulted for the District's interests. Bill Estrella asked for a review of the enabling act to be sure we can proceed as planned; he also suggested the solicitors for both Bristol and Warren be made aware of these plans.

MOTION: Bill Estrella motioned that the Budget/Facilities Subcommittee receive Jane Correia's Outline of Loan Transaction worksheet and request our solicitor review it and contact the solicitors of both Bristol and Warren to review the details. David Dugan seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be Monday, September 17, 2007, 6:00 PM in the Oliver Administration Building.

Adjournment

At 8:00 PM, Paul Brule, seconded by Bill Estrella, motioned to adjourn; the motion passed unanimously.

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